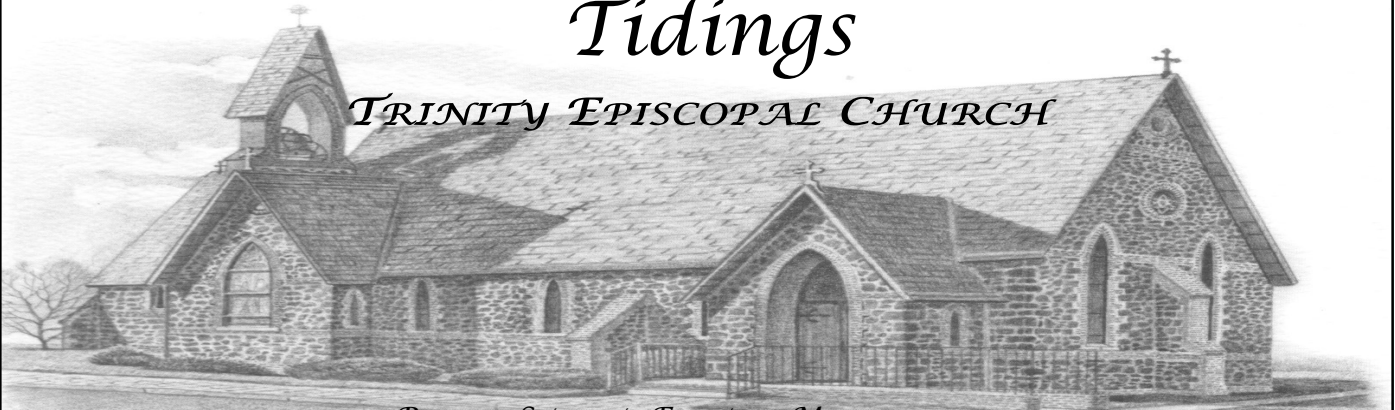


# *Tidings*

## *TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH*



*105 BRIDGE STREET · ELKTON, MARYLAND 21921*

*WEBSITE: [www.trinityelkton.org](http://www.trinityelkton.org) EMAIL: [trinityelkton@verizon.net](mailto:trinityelkton@verizon.net)*

*The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Sichangi*

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Peace and grace from God our Father and Jesus Christ who is our Lord and Savior.

God our Father has continued to shower us with His grace and mercies in the life we share together at Trinity. We have continued to abound in love and unity in our fellowship, worship, and ministries in this place. God has also blessed us with new members who have decided to fellowship with us, and therefore we welcome them with open hands and warm, welcoming hearts. For those who were away and have returned, we say home is home and welcome back.

In the recent past we have also bade farewell to our beloved friends in Christ who have relocated to different locations. To the Smiths and the Davidsons, we wish God's blessings as they start new lives, friends, and ministries. We will always remember their contributions to our life together.

As we continue to explore new ways of ministering among ourselves and with other parishes within our Episcopal churches, let us pray and discern the will of God in this matter. Times of transition and change may affect our lives, fellowship together sometimes may cause anxiety, but if we put our focus, prayer, and faith in our God Almighty who has called us and send us to do His mission, we will always remain true to His calling and strive to serve Him in season and out of season. If there is doubt in any information that is relayed in our fellowship, do not hesitate to contact our office for any clarification at anytime. Doubts are always the enemy of the cross, so let us give no chance to the "enemy."

I have nominated Heidi White as our interim senior warden and Ross Lee has been appointed as our interim junior warden.

We all need your support and prayer during this time of transition.

In Christ's service,  
*Fr. Nicholas*

## *Your Prayers are asked*

Robert	Elizabeth Lane
Michael	Margaret Long
Randy	Victoria Marsh
Jacob Asroff	Kate Miles
Mary Helen Atwood	George Miller
Jane Ayers	Franck R. Muhsi
Dustin Bartow	Jean Mulford
Hamid Basil	Richard Palmer
Robert Burchett	Rose Perrone
Goldie Cook	Christopher Porteus
Jesse Cugini	Janice Potts
Donna Hurst Dellinger	Charlotte Moore
Deborah Edwards	Linda Rawlings
Judy Fisher	Jane Sichangi
Eric Hearn	Geri Simons
Joe Heimberger	Carroll Smith
Bill Jackson	Tricia Smith
Libby Keefer	Betsy Spina
Josephine W. Kengne	Marlene Thompson
Fabrice Kengne	
Kathy Koslak	

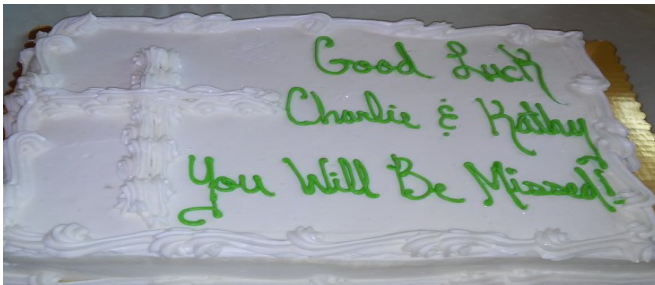
## *Diocesan Stewardship Conference*

On Saturday, May 14, Father Nicholas and I attended a Diocesan Stewardship Conference in Easton titled "Generosity makes All the Difference" led by Rev. Corky Carlisle.

A copy of the Conference handout is available for all to review in a pocket on the Vestry bulletin board in the Parish House.

In brief- we were shown how there is a joy in giving; That people will give more if asked. If Stewardship is pursued in ways presented by Rev. Carlisle, giving is on average up 27%. Look to hear more about giving as we follow Rev. Carlisle's recommendations.

*~ Richard Lemen*



## **Shared Ministry Update**

**Overview** - This potential shared ministry is quite a puzzle, and I don't think we have found all the pieces to the puzzle yet. The primary goals are: to provide an opportunity for Fr. Nicholas to fulfill his calling to minister full-time; to help each congregation be sustainable; and to expand our mission and reach out into our communities.

Overall, the ballots and the discussions I have had with various parishioners have indicated a flexibility and willingness to help make this work. Change is difficult, but we all want to see our parish become stronger and more vital. Please know that we welcome your comments and concerns. Also, know that there are many more details to be worked out, and we will not enter into anything that knowingly jeopardizes our future.

**Team** - The team is comprised of: Canon Patrick Collins; Fr. Nicholas Sichangi; Trinity representatives: MaryHelen Atwood, Ross Lee, Heidi White; St. Stephen's: Eric Broussard (Sr. Warden) and Terry Kern; and St. Clement's: John Draggone (Sr. Warden). We have met twice (July 1 and 22), and we plan to meet August 17 or 19; plus, there have been meetings with the respective vestries. Most importantly, there have been discussions with the congregations.

**Service Times** - After polling parishioners, initially the team thought that Trinity would have a service at 9:00 am and St. Stephen's would offer 11:15 am. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Eric noted that St. Stephen's parishioners would prefer an earlier time and proposed times for Holy Eucharist: St. Stephen's 8:00 am and Trinity 10:30 am. I agreed to again survey Trinity's congregation.

Our first poll showed considerable support for a 9:00 am service of Holy Communion. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> poll indicated that there was considerable support for a 10:30 am service of Holy Communion and there was moderate support for an 8:00 am service of Morning Prayer.

Based on the results of the first ballot, the first trial was July 24 with Fr. Nicholas serving Trinity at 9:00 am and St. Stephen's at 11:15am. The team has not yet decided whether to test the St. Stephen's second proposal.

**Partnership** - Originally, the proposal was for Trinity and St. Stephen's to share Fr. Nicholas's ministry. However, St. Stephen's Sr. Warden is concerned that the two churches may not be able to financially support a full-time priest, so a proposal was made to have St. Clement's also share. Whether it is 2 or 3 parishes involved in the sharing, Fr. Nicholas's total would be 40 hours.

Trinity's representatives are very concerned about spreading Fr. Nicholas too thin and have voiced objection to sharing the ministry 3 ways. However, the good news about the potential of this shared (full-time) ministry is that Fr. Nicholas could give up his other employment.

**Financials** - The team is just really beginning to look at the financial and contractual implications. Based on figures provided by Art Kendall, the Diocesan Administrator of Finance, we have begun to calculate each congregation's anticipated contribution. For a full-time priest, we must pay stipend (salary), taxes, and benefits (including health, dental, disability insurance and pension). Currently, Fr. Nicholas is not canonically resident in the Diocese of Easton thus is not eligible for pension, but soon he will become canonically resident and the pension must be covered. Considerations include: the percentage of service to each congregation, each congregation's financial status, Trinity's provision of a rectory and utilities, increased taxes related to Fr. Nicholas naturalizing, sharing a contract for one person with 2-3 entities, etc. So, as you can see, there are many factors and this will take more work and consideration. With the support and prayers of the congregations and vestries, the team will work to create a solution that is in the best interest of all involved.

~Heidi White

## Yard Sale

Thanks to all who helped make our yard sale a BIG success.

Our profit was \$553.40

## ***How Are We Doing? August Tidings 2016***

### **Sunday worship: Our weekly, monthly attendance numbers.**

For the months of June and July, 2016 we averaged 30 communicants at our one 9:00 am service. In 2015 our average monthly summer attendance was about 40 communicants at our one 9:00 am service. We continue to experience loss in attendance from those who are ill. Our prayer list for our parishioners continues to remain very long, please keep these parishioners in your prayers. Trinity has also lost three families from those who have moved away. Ben and Goldie Cook, Tricia and Sam Smith and Kathy and Charlie Davidson. They all will be truly missed.

We are welcoming some new members. Please take time to greet and meet any newcomers you see in church. As we recite in our Diocesan prayer, Trinity is an inviting and welcoming parish.

One of our parishioners suggested we make a small donation to the Cecil County Historical Society for their 5K run. It enables Trinity to be on their T shirts and their web page. Little things like this can help us become known to potential new members. Our Vestry approved the suggestion.

### **Fellowship through First Friday dinners.**

Our attendance at First Friday dinners for the months of June and July has averaged 18 people. These dinners help to also make our presence known in the community. So that even if one or two participants are new to Trinity, this can help attract them to worship at Trinity.

### **Outreach via the Food Pantry .**

For the month of July 2016, our Food Pantry served 18 families. What has been so refreshing about the month of July is that we have added a whole new staff of volunteers to help with the Food Pantry. Matt Cugini, who recently returned to the area from Colorado, is following in for his father's footsteps and has volunteered to serve on the third Tuesday of each month. Culet Atemkeng and her group of volunteers have committed to helping out in a major way, taking all the Tuesdays needed to make sure we are open every week. In July, we ran this process with our new volunteers and it ran

very effectively. It is such a pleasure to see such wonderful service and gives of time and talents by our parishioners!!

We will continue to report on these areas each month. Let us know your thoughts, and if there are other things you would like to see updated on a regular basis in the Tidings. Thanks to all of you for reading the Tidings, and for all you do to make Trinity an inviting and welcoming place.

## Ministry Schedule

### 9:00 AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>CBR</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>P oP</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
8/7	Aaron Derby	Susan Burkholder	Heidi White	Susan Weed	Marina White	Jane Ayers
8/14	Marina White	Bill Gorak	Ross Lee	Susan and Rick Burkholder	Gordon Tozer	Libby Keefer
8/21	Marina White	Ross Lee	Debbie McKeown	Paul Arbour Jr. Mitzie Snyder	Mary Helen Atwood	Jane Ayers
8/28	Carri Birdsall	Susan Burkholder		Eugene Caffey	Mitzie Snyder	Libby Keefer



### Children's Home Foundation Continues Their Efforts

Members of Children's Home Foundation (CHF), a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton, welcomed the Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley, Jr. at their May meeting when over \$130,000 in vocational scholarships were approved. These grants will go to over 70 students from the 9 counties of the diocese. Cake College, Cecil College and Wor-Wic Community College are where the majority of students will receive care, early childhood education, EMT training, welding, cosmetology and criminal justice are just a few of the fields of study these students will enter. CHF champions the opportunities vocational skills training recipients often finish a program of study with little or no student debt and are job ready.